ORDER

OCCUPANCY AND USE REGULATIONS

PIKE NATIONAL FOREST

Pursuant to Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 261.50(a), the following acts are prohibited in the Devils Head area as described in the order, and as depicted on the maps as Exhibit A and B, Township 8 South, Range 69 West, Sections 14, 15, 22, 23. This order applies to the described area within the *Pike National Forest*, from March 1, until July 31, until further notice.

(1) When provided in an order, it is prohibited to go into or be upon any area which is closed for the protection of: Threatened, endangered, rare, unique, or vanishing species of birds. *CFR* 261.53 (a)

Pursuant to 36 CFR, Section 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this order:

- (1) Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
- (2) Any Federal, State, or local officer, or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

Done at Pueblo, Colorado, this 24 day of April, 1995.

LOGANIA. LEE

Acting Forest Supervisor

Pike and San Isabel National Forests

Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands

Violation of these prohibitions is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor, by a fine of not more than \$5000.00, or imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both.

JUSTIFICATION STATEMENT

The Devils Head area is critical breeding and nesting habitat for peregrine falcons. Peregrine falcon activity in this area has been monitored for several years. Peregrine falcon survey crews have documented climbing activity in this area during the birds' nesting period. For at least the past two years, nest sites in this area have failed. It is the biologist's opinion that these nest sites have failed due to human disturbance during this critical nesting period.

In order to ensure that human disturbance is not a factor in the peregrines' nesting success rate, it is necessary to close the Devils Head area specifically, 221 acres of National Forest land in Douglas County including T9S, R69W, Sections 14, 15, 22 and 23 (see attached map). This order will be effective from March 1 to July 31, and will remain in effect unless revised, revoked or amended. These restrictions do not apply to emergency, law enforcement, federal, state or other government personnel who are in the area for official or emergency purposes, or who are authorized or otherwise officially approved by the USFS. This order will be posted at the site and at the South Platte Ranger District office.

PAMELA DEVORE

District Ranger

0/10/95



